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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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O P 300544Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6937
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T M A L VIENTIANE 2084

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR LA VN
SUBJECT: VISIT OF VIETNAMESE DELEGATION TO LAOS

SUMMARY: VIETNAMESE POLITURO MEMBER AND VICE PRIME MINISTER LE THANH NGHI ARRIVED IN VIENTIANE AUGUST 29 WITH THE FIRST VIETNAMESE DELEGATION SINCE PROCLAMATION OF THE LPDR AND WAS WARMLY RECEIVED BY HIS OPPOSITE NUMBER, NOUHAK PHOUMSAVANH AND BY FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUNE SIPRASEUTH. NOUHAK'S SPEECH AT OFFICIAL DINNER FOR VIETNAMESE MADE NO SPECIFIC ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES ALTHOUGH LE THANH NGHI WAS LESS GRACEFUL. LAO APPARENTLY EXPECT VISIT TO ADD TO THEIR PRESTIGE AND CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR MATERIAL NEEDS.

1. SATURDAY EVENING, AUGUST 28, FOREIGN MINISTRY IN-
VITED DIPLOMATICCORPS TO AIRPORT AT 0900 SUNDAY,
AUGUST 29, TO MEET DELEGATION OF GOVERNMENT OF
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM LED BY LE THANH NGHI,
MEMBER OF POLITBURO OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF VIET NAM
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WORKERS' PARTY AND VICE PRIME MINISTER. MINISTRY ALSO

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INVITED CORPOS TO DINNER HOSTED BY VICE PRIME MINISTER NOUHAK PHOUMSAVANH AND TO A LAO FOLKLORE PRESENTATION IN HONOR OF VISITING DELETATION SUNDAY EVENING. SINCE INVITATION CAME FROM LAO FOREIGN MINISTRY AND VICE PRIME MINISTERHOUHAK, I ACCEPTED.

2. VIETNAMESE DELEGATION, WHICH INCLUDED SEVERAL UNI-FORMED MILITARY, WAS RATHER LARGE. IT PLANS TO DEPART WEDNESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 1.

3. NOUHAK, WHO IS APPARENTLY THE OPPOSITE NUMBER OF LE THANH NGHI, PRESIDED AT THE DINNER WHICH VICE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUNE SIPRASEUTH AND MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH SOUK VONGSAK ALSO ATTENDED. NOUHAK'S SPEECH WAS INTERESTING IN THAT IT MADE NO SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE UNITED STATES AND ONLY ONE GENERAL REFERENCE TO THE COLLAPSE OF THE "IMPERIALIST SYSTEM" AND ANOTHER REFERENCE TO THE EFFORTS OF THE "IMPERIALISTS AND THEIR VALETS" TO DESTROY THE LPDR, EFFORTS WHICH HAVE PROVED "FRUITLESS". IT CONTAINED FULSOME PRAISE OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE AND PAID HONOR TO THE MEMORY OF HO CHI MINH AND THE VIRTURES OF THE VIET NAM WORKERS' PARTY. IT RECALLED THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHOP BETWEEN LAOS AND VIET NAM IN THE PAST AND CITED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CURRENT VISIT IN STRENGTHENING THE FRIENDSHIP AND SPECIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

4. LE THANH NGHI'S SPEECH WAS FULL OF PRAISE FOR THE LAO PARTY AND PEOPLE. IT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE VISIT WOULD HELP TO STRENGTHEN FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARI-TY AND DEVELOP LASTING RELATIONS OF MUTAL ASSISTANCE. IN REGARD TO THE UNITED STATES HE W#:3 &4-:3*7) 5#-, 5#3)-9, CITING THE VIETNAMESE "PATRIOTIC FIGHT AGAINST THE AMERICAN AGGRESSORS", THE "DESIGNS AND MANUVERS OF THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS AND THEIR VALETS", THE "SABOTAGE CARRIED OUT BY THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS AND THEIR VALETS", A DEMAND THAT "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PUT AN END TO ALL MANUVERS AND HOSTILE ACTS AGAINST THE LPDR", AND ONE ADDITONAL REFERENCE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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"STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLES AGAINST IMPERIALISM, COLONIAL-ISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM". HE ALSO CALLED UPON THE "AUTHORITIES OF THAILAND" SERIOUSLY TO CARRY OUT THEIR UNDERTAKING UNDER THE LAO-THAI COMMUNIQUE OF AUGUST 3, 1976 WITH A VIEW TO NORMALIZING RELATIONS BETWEEN LAOS AND THAILAND.

5. THE FOLKLORE PDUAO ASAVNNYOIFVM"

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034:3,5-&3 9* :#8,3 3 :9..7,8 5 5603 ?-))35 -,$
8,&8,& 9, 09)858:-) 5#3.ES. ONE NUMBER, WHICH
RECEIVED AN ENCORE, WAS A SONG CALLED "VIET NAM".

6. COMMENT: NOUHAK ALSO POINTED OUT IN HIS SPEECH
THAT THE VISIT WAS AT LPDR INVITATION, THAT THE DELEGA-
TION'S VISIT WAS THE FIRST SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF
THE LPDR AND THAT IT WAS THE FIRST VIETNAMESE DELEGA-
TION WHICH HAD THE WEIGHTY TASK OF CARRYINGOUT
SUCCESSFULLY THE SPIRIT AND THE LETTER OF THE JOINT
LAO-VIETNAMESE DECLARATION OF APRIL, 1976. HE
EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE LAO AND VIETNAMESE
WOULD HAVE TIME TO DISCUSS RELATIONS IN REGARD TO BOTH
COOPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN ALL FIELDS:
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, AND SCIENTIFIC, WITH A
VIEW TO CONSOLIDATING AND BUILDING BOTH COUNTRIES IN
NPROSPERTIY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WISHES OF BOTH
PEOPLES. IT APPEARS THUS FAR THAT THE LAO REGARD THE
VISIT AS ONE WHICH WILL ADD TO THEIR PRESTIGE AND
CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING TO MEETING THEIR MATERIAL NEEDSAB
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